Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00726 230955Z

12
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /108 W
---------- 010085
P R 230910Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1879
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0726

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PBOR ET SO US

SUBJ: INCIDENT IN OGADEN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 5686

1. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR AYALEW TOLD US MAY 22 THAT HE HAD HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH SOMALI OFFICIALS MAY 20-22 REGARDING BORDER INCIDENTS. MEETINGS WERE PRIMARILY WITH ACTING FONSEC ABDURAHMAN BUT INCLUDED ONE FRANK AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING, AT AYALEW'S REQUEST, WITH PRESIDENT SIAD.

2. ACCORDING AYALEW, HE HAD BEEN CALLED IN TO RECEIVE SOMALI PROTEST AGAINST ALLEGED BORDER CROSSING BY TENNECO WORKTEAM IN GORAGIAHOR AREA. SOMALIS CLAIMED THAT TENNECO EMPLOYEES CONCERNED WERE ONE NON-AFRICAN AND ONE ETHIOPIAN WHO WERE OPERATING BULLDOZER. (SIAD REPORTEDLY IMPLIED THAT EXPATRIATE WAS AMERICAN.) SUBSEQUENTLY, AYALEW WENT IN TO PROTEST INCURSION INTO ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY BY SOMALI TROOPS NEAR GELADI WHICH IS SOME 100 MILES TO THE NORTHEAST OF TENNECO INCIDENT. AYALEW STATES THAT SOMALIS ADAMENTLY DENY THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY INCURSION BY THEIR TROOPS ACROSS DE FACTO BORDER BUT THAT SIAD PROMISED TO WITHDRAW UNITS AWAY FROM BORDER AND REQUESTED ETHIOPIA TO DO THE SAME. ON MAY 22 ABDURAHMAN TOLD AYALEW
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00726 230955Z

THAT SOMALI TROOPS HAD BEEN PULLED BACK.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

3. AYALEW STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CASUALTIES ON EITHER SIDE AND THAT INCIDENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE ABOUT THE SAME TIME LAST WEEK.

4. WHILE PUZZLED BY ALLEGED SOMALI INCURSION, AYALEW IS ENCOURAGED BY SOMALI RESPONSE TO HIS DEMARCHE. HE COMMENTED THAT HE SENSED GENUINE DESIRE ON SOMALI PART TO DAMP DOWN POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER INCIDENTS (HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY SIAD TWO HOURS AFTER HE REQUESTED MEETING) AND THAT MOOD HERE WAS VERY DIFFERENT THAN THAT AT TIME OF BORDER INCIDENTS IN APRIL, 1973.

5. LOCAL SCENE HERE IS DOMINATED BY ALL-OUT PREPARATIONS FOR OAU CONFERENCES WHICH OPEN IN TWO-WEEKS' TIME. NO SIGN HERE OF INCREASED MILITARY PREPARATIONS, ALTHOUGH DURING PAST THREE DAYS A MIG-21 HAS BEEN MAKING LOW PASSES OVER THE CITY FOR FIRST TIME.
KIRK

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NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER INCIDENTS, EXCAVATING EQUIPMENT, COMBAT OPERATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS, DE FACTO BOUNDARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
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